

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in the present application. Claims 11-20 are cancelled and claim 1 is amended herein. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are currently pending.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as assertedly being anticipated over U.S. Patent No. 6,580,156 to Ito et al (hereinafer “Ito”). Claims 4 and 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over Ito in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,708,291 to Bohr et al. (hereinafter “Bohr”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.


Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite at least one of the outstanding features of the present invention, namely, “a plurality of links electrically coupling the cathode and the anode.” None of the references, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest “a plurality of links electrically coupling the cathode and the anode” as recited by claim 1 of the Applicants’ invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) be withdrawn. Claims 2-10 depend from and further limit claim 1, and thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of dependent claims 2-10 be withdrawn as well.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner pass the case to issuance. If the Examiner should have any questions, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the address below. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, in the event that there are any fees due, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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